

ONE HUNDRED MILLION ACRES.

At this point the Honourable Mr. Ferguson asked Mr. Bredin to prepare a careful estimate of all the good land north of Edmonton, east of the Rocky mountains.

The witness said he would have to be guided a good deal by report, but promised to prepare such an estimate. In due course the Chairman of the Select Committee received the following communication from Mr. Bredin:

OTTAWA, April 7, 1907.

Hon. T. O. DAVIS,

Chairman of the Select Committee of the Senate.

DEAR SIR,—Agreeable to your request, I have the honour to inform you that my estimate of the area of the agricultural lands that will be available in northern Alberta—say north of the 55th parallel of latitude—and in the unorganized district of Mackenzie, is not less than 100,000,000 (one hundred millions) of acres.

I herewith inclose you a sample of salt from Salt river, near Fort Smith, in northern Alberta. This sample is very much discoloured, as I have had it in my possession in a canvas bag, for over nine years.

I have the honour to be, sir,

Yours obediently,

W. F. BREDIN,

Proceeding with his evidence, Mr. Bredin said he knew that at Lesser Slave lake they have had magnificent crops. There are three little rivers running in there, and four or five township of practically delta land, and witness had never seen finer crops in any part of the northwest than he had seen there.

FISHERIES AND GAME.

The fisheries of that country are very, very great. The whitefish come from Lake Athabaska as far as Fort McMurray on the Athabaska river, and Lake Athabaska is full of whitefish and lake trout, besides the coarser fish, such as pike, suckers and pickerel. Great Slave river is also full of fish.

North of Fort Smith and further down to Great Slave lake and down the Mackenzie they have a fish that is peculiar to that part of the world. It is called the Inconnu, because it is not found anywhere else. It is a large white-fleshed, silver-scaled salmon in appearance, and these fish run from 15 to 40 pounds in weight. It would be considered a very good fish if there were not better fish in that country.

Fish are very plentiful there and a man can take his own choice. The better fish there are whitefish, lake trout, Arctic trout and herring. The herring come up the Mackenzie to about Fort Wrigley. They are good fish. The witness had eaten fish all the way down through there. They are the main food support of the people of that country both in summer and winter. The herring come in from the Arctic ocean. Witness had been told that Great Bear lake just teems with that same herring. Of course along the mountains they have speckled trout—rainbow trout they call them.

There is no commercial importance attaching to the fish up there, and there is no export yet, except from Lesser Slave lake. Three years ago an outfit from the United States entered there, and they must have taken out about 300 sleigh loads of fish from that lake. They teamed them to Edmonton and shipped them from there. It was 250 miles to Edmonton. They got a cheap rate of freight, because the goods going into Lesser Slave lake and Peace river furnished freight one way, and the fish furnished freight the other. They had freight both ways, and so they had a fair rate on the fish.

The buffalo are found between Peace Point on Peace river, and Buffalo river and Salt river. The number is estimated at from two hundred and fifty up to five hundred. The wolves are so plentiful that they destroy the calves, and the number is not increas-